Average rate of failure of local/inter- exchange calls for urban and rural areas is as under:

	Failure of		
	Local calls	Inter-exchange calls	Remarks
Urban	4.2	11.1	—
Rural	4.1	—	Being single exchange area, no inter-exchange calls

(b) However to reduce the percentage failure of calls, following steps are taken:—

(i) Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges to avoid problems inherited with electromagnetic switching equipment used thereto.

(ii) Replacement of life-expired equipment.

(iii) Intensive testing of exchange equipment.

(iv) Laying of new junction cables inducts to protect them from external damages.

(v) Pressurisation of junction cables to minimise cable breakdown faults.

(vi) Provision of high-grade junction ccts. on Pulse Code Modulation—Coaxial and microwage optical fibre media to provide better quality and more dependable service, and

(vii) Use of improved telephone instruments.

Measures to meet the demands in Telecommunication Sector

525. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government are contemplating to meet the demands, in the Telecommunications Sector;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up a rural telegraphic network through a satellite for the entire country; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Department of Telecommunication has prepared a perspective plan to provide telephones practically on demand by the year 2000 A.D.

It has been estimated that this will call for increasing the number of direct exchange lines (DELs) to about 190 lakhs by the turn of the century from the present 38 lakhs.

The Department will undertake the plan provided the necessary resources could be made available.

(b) and (c) There is at present no proposal to provide satellite based telegraph network for the entire country. A R&D Pilot Project for setting up 50 rural telegraph terminals in the North Eastern Region through satellite has been approved as experimental measure. This is likely to be operational during 1989-90.

Augmenting power generation

526. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the national requirement of electricity per day;

(b) what is its generation and how the shortfall, if any, is being met at present; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to augment the electricity/power

generation sothat Delhi becomes self-sufficient in its requirement of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) During June, 1988, the average energy requirement in the country was 500 MU per day against which the average availability was about 542 MU per day. Thus there was a shortage of about 48 MU per day i.e. 8 per cent. The gap between demand & supply was bridged by imposing power cuts/restrictions mainly on industries and staggering of agricultural load.

(c) Delhi meets its requirements of power from its own thermal station at Indra Prastha (Thermal), gas turbines, output from the Central Sector Badarpur TPS and its share in the Central Sector Stations of Baira Siul (H), Salal (H) and Singrauli STPS. Besides the above, Delhi has been allocated 50 per cent of the unallocated output (15 per cent) from Singrauli STPS. Delhi is by and large able to meet its requirements of energy fully. However in the event of multiple outages of thermal units in Delhi area, it needs additional assistance from the Northern grid, which is provided to the extent possible. In case system parameters do not permit the additional assistance, marginal load shedding by rotation is effected in Delhi.

Production of cement plant

527. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inadequate supply of coal to cement plants since January this year is seriously affecting their production; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. During the period January, 1988 to May, 1988 the total loss of Cement production on account of short supply of coal, as reported by various cement units, was as under:—

Jan. 1988	. . .	10803 Tonnes
Feb. "	.	7056 "
March "	.	27105 "
April "	. .	50341 "
May "	. .	73175 "
		168480 Tonnes

(b) The production of cement is monitored closely by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Cement Industry and whenever assistance is required by way of availability of inputs, like coal, wagons, etc. matter is taken up with the concerned authorities like the Department of Coal/Coal Organisations and Ministry of Railways to render necessary assistance. The coal stock position of cement factories is being reviewed on weekly basis and coal fields and Railways are requested to rush coal on priority basis to Cement plants, whose coal stock position is critical. Ad-hoc quantity of Coal is also recommended for movement on emergent basis.

An additional quantity of 41000 tonnes of SLV coal was sanctioned to Southern Cement Plants from Bengal-Bihar coalfields for movement by rail-cum-sea route. 12 additional coal rakes were also sanctioned for movement from BCCL/ECL by all rail route to Southern Cement plants. A further quantity of 25000 tonnes of export quality coal was allotted to Cement plants in the Southern Region.

Sick coir-based industrial units

528. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of coir-based industrial units in the country which get industrial subsidy from Government in each State;